



Senior Halloween:  
Pages 12 & 13

# DELAWARE AWARE

Delaware Valley High School - Milford, Pa.

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## Remembering Reagan May

2009-2025

BY JOSIE LORDI  
Sports Co-Editor

Our school community is mourning the loss of Reagan May, a bright and caring student, sister, niece, friend and daughter whose warmth and laughter touched everyone who knew her. Friends, teachers and family will remember her for her creativity, drive, stubbornness, compassion and the way she always looked out for others.

"I don't even have the words to describe her," Reagan's father Nick May said. "When she walked into a room, it just lit up."

Her hobbies included horseback riding, baking, hunting and firefighting. Firefighting was a passion she was considering making a career, and she wished one day to become the first female chief of the Milford fire department.



Contributed Photo

Reagan and her brother Rylee enjoyed hunting and volunteering for the fire department together.

It was evident that if Reagan faced a setback, she would come back stronger and more determined to succeed.

This summer, Reagan attended Camp Cadet where she made herself known and made her family extremely proud. Troopers would go up to her dad and ask if his daughter was in the cadet program.

"The weekend before she went to Camp Cadet, she was terrified of failing," Reagan's mom Joanne May said. "We told her she's going to fail at something, but she's not going to quit. She didn't quit. She gave camp everything she had, and she came out stronger than ever."

When Reagan was younger, she loved to bake. One of her mom's favorite memories is when she came home from work to a messy kitchen, flour everywhere and a little girl with a huge smile on her face with decorated cupcakes or cookies.

"She made me want to be the best mom I could be," Joanne said. "She lit up every room she walked in, her laughter filled it. I strive to be like her everyday."

Children were also naturally drawn to Reagan. She always found ways to make kids laugh and could communicate with them on a level that not many others could. She was known almost as the fun aunt to some of the preschool kids.

"She once convinced the whole preschool class that the sky was



Contributed Photo

Reagan hoped that one day she would become the first female chief of the Milford Fire Department.

purple," Nick said. "Reags was very convincing."

Reagan will be remembered as the girl you could always count on. If you needed a friend, a lending hand or a reason to smile, Reagan was there—ready, without hesitation, and always with an open heart.

"She made a name for herself and pushed hard, and we could not have been more proud of her," her family said.



## Memories that will last a lifetime:

**"The thing I loved most about Reagan was her personality. She was very outgoing and friendly with everyone. She was always there for me. Even on her bad days, she made sure I had a good one."**

**-Senior close friend Ella Smith**

**"Reagan was a force to be reckoned with. She had so much sass but so much heart and was always there for everyone else. When my brother was sick, I was going through a lot. Reags and her friends wrote me a letter telling me how strong I was and that I would be okay. That was just who she was."**

**-DVMS teacher and friend Rachel Phipps**

**"She was so herself and never cared what people thought of her. She was so unique, and I just miss her everyday."**

**-Aunt Karley May**

**"I had the privilege of knowing Reagan for over 10 years, and this past school year, I got to have her in class. She was always making sarcastic comments and making herself and others laugh. Reagan's laugh was contagious. She is forever missed, and I will always cherish the memories we got to make together."**

**-DVHS teacher and friend Courtney Kelly**

Compiled by Josie Lordi

@delaware\_news

# School News

## CTE Spotlight: *Early Childhood Education*

By FAITH BAILEY

*School News Co-Editor*

Early Childhood Education CTE is a career tech program geared for students who are interested in learning about children from newborn to nine years old. They are taught how to be effective teachers and how to work at preschool centers.

Level one starts out in the early learning center, working hands-on with children, and level two involves running the preschool in the afternoon. Level three starts helping at the elementary school and runs the preschool in the morning.

The levels are based on age groups. Level one studies infants and toddlers. Level two studies preschoolers, and level three studies children from five through nine years old.

After this CTE, most students either become elementary school teachers or work at a daycare.

“You want to be here, so I get really good kids,” teacher of levels two and three, Mrs. Jill Farr Bodnar said. “It’s not like an English class where you have

to be there.”

Mrs. Farr Bodnar enjoys how much the students value working with the children.

Level one teacher Mrs. Beth Pavinich introduces the CTE to students who begin to gain experience with children and teaching techniques.

The Early Childhood Education CTE has been an option for students for 15 years and has had significant interest.

In the future, Mrs. Farr would like to expand and have more than one preschool class and have more infant hands-on experience.

The class takes up a lot of time and requires students to have the drive to spend most of their day learning about early childhood.

The hardest part for students is making up for missed work because the class takes up three periods a day, so missing two days of school work feels equivalent to missing a week of work for other classes. Students can not make up for the experience they miss when they are absent for a day when they

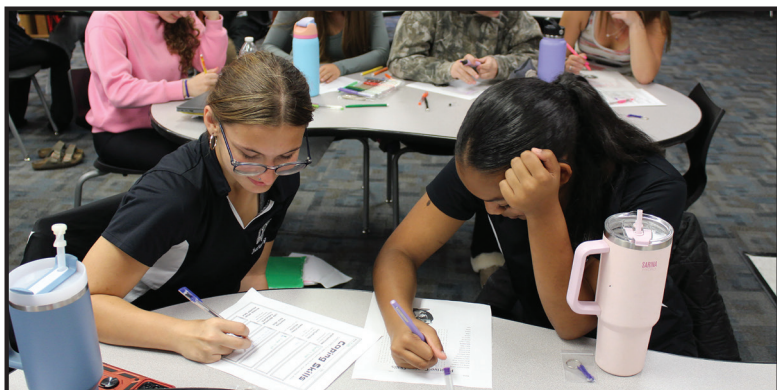


Faith Bailey/Del.Aware

**Senior Olivia Sheridan starting centers for the children in the preschool.**

would be in the center working with kids.

“I think the hardest part is keeping up with the workload,” junior Emma Wentworth said. “It takes a while to get used to all the work and stay on track when you miss a day.”



Contributed Photo

## Workshop provides resources for students

Students participated in the Mental Health Escapade on Oct. 3, a program designed by school social worker Ms. Amy Letwinsky. The program was offered as a new opportunity for students to mobilize and educate themselves on mental health in honor of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and resulted in a 23-student turnout. The activities consisted of educational games, such as suicide prevention trivia BINGO and various presentations on subjects such as coping methods. The program will potentially return in January.

Compiled by Lily Stoveken

## SCHOLARSHIP SUGGESTIONS

Check out these scholarships and helpful websites!

### Burger King Scholars Program

- \$60,000 (4200 awards)
- Deadline: December 15



### Niche Scholarships

- \$50,000 (One award)
- Deadline: December 31



### Owl Scholarship

- \$50,000 (50 awards)
- Deadline: November 29



### Additional Websites

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)  
[www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

### Social Media

Delaware Valley High School's Guidance Dept.  
Instagram: @dvhs\_counselors  
X: @DVHSCounselors

Compiled by Vanessa Dispoto

# School News

## Students tune up for District 10 auditions

BY ASHANTIA DICETTE  
*Opinion Co-Editor*

A multitude of student musicians from across the region are preparing for District 10 auditions, where band, jazz band, chorus and orchestra members showcase their talents for the opportunity to perform among the best in our district.

Music teachers are helping students fine-tune their performances, providing support in preparation as the audition day approaches.

Chorus teacher Mr. Richard Horst said the experience can vary widely from student to student.

“Some students handle it easily—they just prepare well, breeze in, breeze out,” Mr. Horst said. “Other students get nervous. It’s a very competitive process, and it just depends on how that’s going to

affect the kids.”

Mr. Horst, who will serve as one of the chorus judges, noted that most participants come well prepared.

“Out of the 700 or more students that are auditioning, 690 of them know the notes, rhythms and words,” he said. “But it’s the little things—the artistry—that separate the best from the rest.”

*“It’s good for them to get out and play with other like-minded musicians.”*

**- Ms. Lauren Flack**

Band director Mr. Richard Bullock is overseeing both concert and jazz band auditions. Concert band and orchestra students

perform live, while jazz band auditions are recorded and submitted electronically. Mr. Bullock said the preparation process starts months in advance.

“Usually starting in May, that’s when they start looking at the music,” Mr. Bullock said. “It’s a tough piece—usually a collegiate-level or professional-level

solo. They work on it all summer.”

Mr. Bullock believes the auditions offer more than just a challenge.

“You get to meet new people, work with different conductors and composers and perform with people playing at the top of their game,” Mr. Bullock said.

“It’s good for them to get out and play with other like-minded musicians,” orchestra director Ms. Lauren Flack said.

Ms. Flack helps students manage their nerves by having them perform for peers and teachers before auditioning.

“It exposes them to a different level of music-making,” Ms. Flack said. “It’s like my top four students—but everyone is like them. That’s not something I can recreate here at school.”

As District 10 auditions near, the halls of our school are filled with scales, solos and desperation—each note representing a student’s dedication to their craft.



**As Thanksgiving nears, Student Council has started the annual food drive. Scan the QR code to read Ava Troup’s article on the Del.Aware’s online website, [dvhsnews.org](http://dvhsnews.org), to learn more about this year’s food drive.**



## Club Spotlight: Pennsylvania Youth Education Association

BY KIMBERLY SMYSER  
*Managing Editor*

Pennsylvania Youth Education Association (PYEA) teaches students what is essential to become a teacher and what they can do to become an effective educator.

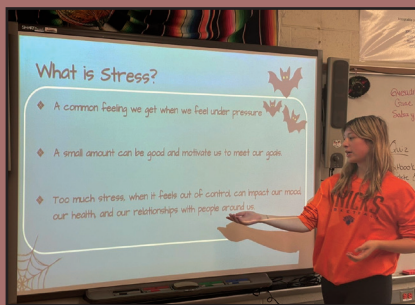
Despite having only 12 members, PYEA participates in a variety of activities around the school and community which allows students to get real-world experience in education.

They gain speaking skills by presenting in front of local elementary students, acclimating them to a classroom setting. They understand how to make lesson plans and gain organizational skills while finding their true passion for education.

“It benefits the students because they can decide

before they go to college if they want to go into this career or not,” adviser Senor Gary Cotroneo said.

Last school year, some students went to North Hampton Community College while others went to East Stroudsburg and got a tour of the campuses.



**Senior co-president Izzy Colavito presents a lesson about stress to third graders.**

The students were informed about the requirements and what courses they would have to take to succeed there.

This school year, the members aim to branch beyond third grade and shadow fifth grade classes as well.

Recently, the members practiced teaching mock lessons about stress.

“[The lessons] allowed me to work with kids one on one and find ways to catch their attention,” senior co-president Kaitlin Gelardi said. “It allowed me to get out of my bubble because as a teacher you have to socialize with kids.”

The students were granted the opportunity to

interview professors from Marywood University who have experience in education, and they got feedback on their questioning and interviewing skills.

On Nov. 1, PYEA members joined students in the early childhood and development CTE program.

They went to East Stroudsburg University and sat in on specific classes to encounter the college experience.

Members do not have to be interested in continuing a career

in education: when senior co-president Izzy Colavito first joined the club, she was debating whether or not teaching was for her. Ultimately, she decided that it was not the path she wanted to take; however, she still suggests people join in order to gain leadership skills.

Interested students can see Senor Cotroneo in room B4 or come to the biweekly meetings on Mondays.

“Go be a teacher, it is a rewarding experience contrary to what you may think,” Senor Cotroneo said. “We need teachers.”

*“It benefits the students because they can decide before they go to college if they want to go into this career or not.”*

**- Senor Gary Cotroneo**

# Opinion

## Self-checkout: glimpses of isolation

By LILY STOVEKEN  
*Opinion Editor*

It seems ridiculous that something like self-checkout at a grocery store could be dangerous. To most, it's an integral part of the shopping experience. In truth, it's not the self-checkout itself that's troublesome. It's the idea behind it.

Convenience. Arguably, that's what tools like self-checkout were created for: an easy, efficient way to get your groceries and leave without having to wait in line and then interact with a cashier. But that's just it: we're omitting the social interaction. Unless your station goes haywire and you need an employee to help you fix it, you can go throughout your shopping experience without having to communicate with anybody. And it's not just at grocery stores: mobile orders, kiosks and food delivery services are all ways of subverting social interaction in the name of convenience and speed.

While that may sound appealing to most—especially introverts—the truth is that installments like self-checkout show a glimpse of a future in which service workers simply vanish from society altogether. At a typical grocery store, you'll still find regular cashiers waiting to check you out at the end of a conveyor belt. But how long will it be before they disappear completely? Automation and artificial intelligence have both made large advances recently, and it seems likely that the simple tasks

of maintaining a grocery store could be completed with robotics. The same goes for other everyday jobs: restaurant hosts, waitresses, baristas...the list goes on and on. What starts as a means of convenience could easily turn into the absence of friendly faces in so many areas of our lives. Whether we know it or not, humans truly need social interaction—even introverts. As society shifts towards individualism, we risk losing the benefits that come with the small talk between employee and customer.

Connecting with others is a crucial part of everyday life. It is essential to maintain an engaged, active mind, which in turn is necessary to maintain good mental health and social skills. Think back to the years of COVID-19: depression skyrocketed with the loss of social interaction. While the absence of cashiers, baristas or waitresses doesn't translate to quarantine, it's still one step further to isolation. Not to mention the impact on the job market. According to Data USA, there are about 3.38 million cashiers alone employed in the US as of 2025. If AI continues on its current path, 3.38 million jobs could be lost. Furthermore, that figure only covers cashiers; The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that there were 5.036 million "Food and Beverage Serving and Related Workers" as of 2024.

While it seems laughable that self-checkout, kiosks or mobile orders are dangerous, they're signs of humanity's steps towards a society without interaction.

## OUR OPINION

### If we don't cheer for each other, who will?

It's time to face the facts Warriors—and we won't sugarcoat it—our school spirit is dying, and it's starting with our sports teams' student sections.

It has become increasingly evident that support and excitement are lacking at our games, matches and meets. Football games have a disproportionately large attendance compared to the rest of our teams, but even the football student section is losing spirit. At the games, the bleachers may be full, but the energy is listless.

A loud student section intimidates the other team and curates the atmosphere. Sitting back in silence sends an undeniable message: even if we do care about our teams, it sure doesn't look like it. Is this how we want Delaware Valley to be represented?

A common excuse is that it is hard to cheer for our teams when they are losing, but supportive energy should not lapse whether our team is the best in the league or not. True school spirit is not conditional; we should be showing up whether we are down by 40 or up by 20.

Look around and you will see smaller schools—with classes half our size—all with painted faces and posters, engaged and full of excitement. All successful sports teams have one thing in common: a noisy student

section ready to do its part.

The responsibility starts with the seniors. Upperclassmen should lead by example and inspire our younger students to see what real spirit can do for our community. If we can cultivate that pride over time, spirit won't become a suggestion but a tradition.

You may say you are too busy to attend the games, or you are too embarrassed to participate in the chants, but the truth is—Delaware Valley is our home, and we should be making a conscious effort to take pride in it while we are here. If you can't make it to the games, you can use social media to spread the word about times and dates or volunteer to make posters beforehand.

At the end of the day, there is no excuse for apathy, and even the smallest amount of support can make an incredible difference. You will be surprised at the connection that can be fostered among the entire school community just by showing up and cheering.

We can start by coming out to Abington Heights at 7 p.m. to support the football team in the district final tonight. It is not too late to rebuild our unity as a student body, but it starts with you.

Put your phone down. Stand up. Dress for themes. Follow the chants.

This is our house—let's act like it.

KAITLIN GELARDI  
*School News Editor*

LILY STOVEKEN  
*Opinion Editor*

ALYSSA ZIMMER  
*Community News Editor*

LILIAN SEIBERT  
*Lifestyle Editor*

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## Letter Guidelines

The Del.Aware is an administrative reviewed publication of the journalism class of Delaware Valley High School. The Del.Aware will print acceptable letters written by current students which may be edited or condensed for reasons of libel, good taste, grammar and punctuation. **Mail:** Letters to the Opinions Editor, Del. Aware, 252 Route 6 & 209, Milford, PA 18337 **Email:** del.awarenewspaper21@gmail.com

# Opinion

## Has tipping gone too far?

By CHLOE SIMONSON

*Science & Technology Co-Editor*

We were paying for dinner at a restaurant when my mom stopped suddenly at the checkout screen. It asked, "Would you like to leave a tip?" The options were 15, 20, 30 percent or "more." There wasn't a way to say "no thanks" that didn't make you feel guilty. And I understand that some jobs rely on tips, but how did tipping spread so far that it's now expected outside the serving industry?

Tipping was never meant to be a routine part of every purchase. It used to be a way to show appreciation for service that went above and beyond. Like a server remembering your order or a bartender staying calm under pressure. Now tipping culture feels out of control. Everywhere you go, from coffee counters to self-checkout kiosks, someone or something is asking for more money on top of what you already paid.

A 2023 survey by the Pew Research Center found that 72 percent of U.S. adults say tipping is expected

in more places today than it was just five years ago. That says a lot about how quickly tipping has spread from restaurants to nearly every kind of business.

But, this doesn't mean I'm against tipping altogether. Some workers truly depend on it. Servers, bartenders and delivery drivers often rely on tips because their base wages are lower than most. In those cases, tipping is fair and necessary because they are providing a personal service. But when employees are simply ringing up purchases, tipping crosses a line. It's uncomfortable being put on the spot, especially for teens, who might not have extra money to spare.

Both my parents worked in tip-based jobs when they were younger, and they'll tell you that tipping used to make sense because the pay was low. But times have changed and instead of raising wages, many businesses seem to be shifting the responsibility onto customers. We're being asked to fill the gaps left by employers who don't pay fairly.

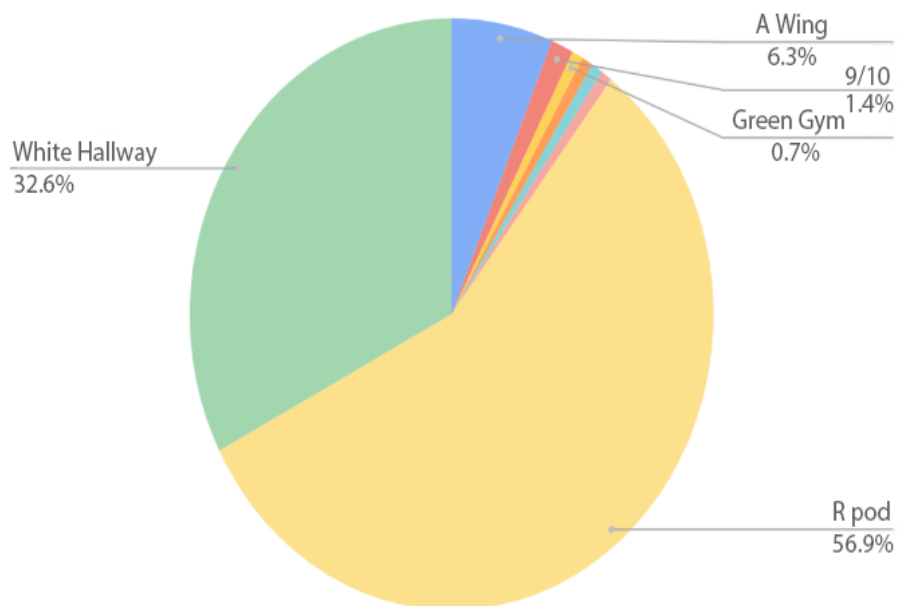
When the lowest suggested option is 15 percent, it no longer feels like gratitude. It feels like pressure.

A Bankrate survey conducted in 2025 found that 41 percent of Americans think tipping culture has gotten "out of control," and nearly two-thirds said they feel pressured or confused about when and how much to tip.

Besides, tipping isn't always as straightforward as people think. Some restaurants automatically include a 20 percent gratuity without telling customers, which means you could end up tipping twice. Others quietly pool tips, splitting them among kitchen staff or even management. Sometimes tips disappear before the intended worker ever sees them. Personally if I am going to tip, I should at least know where that money goes.

In the end, businesses need to stop expecting customers to make up for what they won't pay. Tipping should be about appreciation, not obligation. Reward great service, but let's stop pretending that buying a coffee or scanning your own groceries deserves a bonus.

## What's your least favorite bathroom in the school?



\*During all lunches, a poll was given to randomly selected freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to get their take on DV's most notorious bathrooms.

Compiled by Reilly Newton

## Traditional trick-or-treating is dead

By KAITLIN GELARDI

*School News Editor*

When picturing the holiday, most people associate Halloween with children bustling about from door to door eagerly receiving candy. Have you noticed that fewer kids come to your door each year? It seems that each year fewer children are taking part in the tradition of trick-or-treating.

This change may be attributed to an increased maturity; perhaps kids don't possess the same childhood joy for the holiday as previous generations did.

However, the most recognized cause of this lack of trick-or-treating is attributed to other festivities, such as the trunk-or-treat.

Similar to trick-or-treating, children can collect candy at these trunk-or-treats: the main difference is that they are held in parking lots where children go around to decorated cars to receive treats.

Another popular festivity that kids partake in is attending haunted houses.

Personally, I think it ruins the tradition of Halloween when kids participate in alternative events on the day of, especially when these events can be experienced on days leading up to the holiday.

Trick-or-treating allows our communities to come together and interact with new people. It creates a sense of unity and grants kids the ability to dress up in varying costumes that they don't wear on a day-to-day basis.

One major issue, however, is that costumes are getting too expensive. From my own experience, getting a simple Spiderman suit cost me \$70. Most parents and teenagers don't want to commit to spending a large amount of money on a costume that will only be worn once.

Despite these high costs and other festivities, trick-or-treating is worth prioritizing, as it is a classic childhood experience and unites communities.

# School News

## "12 ANGRY MEN"

**Show Dates:  
Jan. 16 and 17**



**FOREMAN (JUROR #1)**  
JUNIOR  
DERRICK HARRIS



**JUROR #2**  
SOPHOMORE  
JACKSON SUTPHEN



**JUROR #3**  
SOPHOMORE  
WILL KENT



**JUROR #4**  
JUNIOR  
SAMUEL CARLOZZI



**JUROR #5**  
JUNIOR  
PAUL CIMINO



**JUROR #6**  
SOPHOMORE  
GIULIANNA DEMAIO



**JUROR #7**  
SOPHOMORE  
TRENT KAYLOR



**JUROR #8**  
JUNIOR  
MADISON CURCHOE



**JUROR #9**  
JUNIOR  
NADYA BERMUDEZ VICCICA



**JUROR #10**  
JUNIOR  
LOGAN WOODWARD



**JUROR #11**  
SENIOR  
KATE YABLONSKI



**JUROR #12**  
SENIOR  
ASHANTIA DICETTE

Compiled by Reilly Newton

## AP Spanish and Intermediate Foods classes celebrate, learn about Day of the Dead

By ALYSSA ZIMMER  
Community News Editor

Señor Gary Cotroneo's fourth period AP Spanish and Ms. Alex Squatrito's fourth period Intermediate Foods classes collaborated to celebrate Day of the Dead on Nov. 3.

This year, Ms. Squatrito's students made sugar skull-shaped sugar cookies.

"The skulls represent the celebration of both life and death, and it can symbolize joy rather than sorrow," Ms. Squatrito said.

The Spanish students gave a presentation that explained the different symbols that were on the mock altar or ofrenda that Señor Cotroneo made for them. Señor Cotroneo's students also made quesadillas and brought salsa, chips and guacamole for the food exchange.

"It's not anything extravagant, but the point is that it's doing what people do on the

Day of the Dead," Señor Cotroneo said.

Day of the Dead, or Día de Los Muertos, is the equivalent of All Souls Day in America. The real Day of the Dead is celebrated on Nov 2.

It's a Hispanic cultural tradition where people go to cemeteries to honor their loved ones, and they set up altars or ofrendas in their houses. This day also provides the deceased souls a way to be able to come over from the afterlife and be with their living loved ones.

On the ofrendas, families put photos of people who have passed away in their lives, the favorite foods of the deceased marigolds that allow the spirits of their loved ones to travel back to earth to commune with their family members and candles that illuminate the path from the afterlife back to earth.

"It's a somber holiday, but at the same time, it's a celebration," Señor Cotroneo said.

## Inquiring Photographer

"WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PAST HALLOWEEN COSTUME?"  
COMPILED BY KEIRA LEMAY



"A princess pirate"  
Cassidy Shallo  
Class of 2028



"A blow-up dinosaur"  
Tessa Marotta  
Class of 2029



"Anna from Frozen"  
Christina Devine  
Class of 2026



"Dorothy from 'The Wizard of Oz' as a vampire"  
Lillian Whitehead  
Class of 2027

# School News

## Journalism students demonstrate prowess, learn new skills

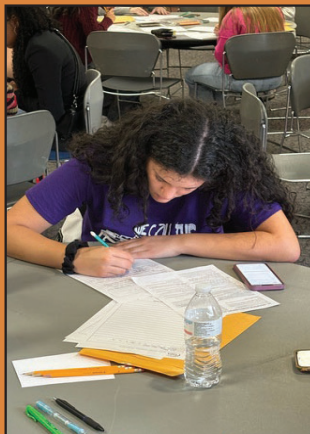
By **KIMBERLY SMYSER AND JOEIMARIE COHEN**  
*Managing Editor, Arts & Literature Co-Editor*

Eight Journalism 3 students participated in a journalism conference at Bloomsburg University on Oct. 23, and eight Journalism 2 students went to Wilkes University for a media day on Oct. 24.

### Bloomsburg Trip

It was an early morning for us as we had to be at the high school at 6:30 a.m. in order to arrive at Bloomsburg University in time for breakfast refreshments at 8:30 a.m.

After the rules and expectations were explained to us at 10 a.m., we were handed manila folders containing all the information we needed, and just like that, the countdown began—I had one hour



Contributed Photo

to handwrite a feature story and my peers wrote a news story, editorials, sports stories and others submitted a photography portfolio.

Writing finished at 11 a.m. and relocated to a nearby room to hear from two speakers: Novalea Verno, editor-in-chief of Bloomsburg's newspaper, The Voice, talked about her experience at Bloomsburg and Bloomsburg alum Sydney Kay, morning news reporter, who spoke about television news in today's society.

We concluded the trip after having lunch at noon and leaving Bloomsburg at 1 p.m.

Students who participated will find out if they made it to finals in Jan.

### Wilkes Trip

We started the morning by stopping for drinks before registration at 9- 9:30 a.m. The event was an opportunity to explore different media careers, such as TV production, radio, their newspaper, The Beacon, speech and debate, public relations or Zebra staff.

While having fun with friends, we also got to partake in the various networking opportunities. From 10-10:50 a.m., my group attended the radio session where we learned how radio shows are edited and





Contributed Photo

were invited to speak on-air.

Afterward, we moved to a public relations workshop with the Wilkes' Zebra staff at 11:10 a.m., discussing controversial PR situations and how media teams approach solving them.


At noon, we had lunch at the Henry Student Center, enjoying a brief rest and exploring the campus grounds before heading back to school.





## Puzzle Fun

Compiled by Vanessa Disposto

D M N  
P U V S  
A I C G  
L I C G  
O R T K  
F H E




There is/are:

- 1 three letter word
- 1 four letter word
- 8 five letter words
- 3 six letter words
- 3 seven letter words
- 3 eight letter words
- 2 nine letter words
- 1 ten letter word

for a total of 22 fall-themed words!



Bring your list of words to Mrs. Lordi in C13 and win a prize!

## FALL BREAK SCHEDULE

<b>11/25</b>	Half Day: Periods 1, 2 & 3 Dismissal at 11:15 a.m. Activity Bus: 1:00 p.m.
<b>11/26</b>	Half Day: Periods 4, 6 & 7 Dismissal at 11:15 a.m. Activity Bus: 2:00 p.m.
<b>11/27</b> <b>11/28</b> <b>12/1</b>	<h1 style="color: white;">NO SCHOOL!</h1>

Compiled by Vanessa Disposto

Compiled by Emma Simmons

# School News

## Trunk-or-treat enhances Halloween, community spirit

By KAITLIN GELARDI  
School News Editor

The annual trunk-or-treat offered an additional opportunity for kids to celebrate Halloween on Oct. 28. Arranged by the senior class officers, the trunk-or-treat is an event where various organizations within the high school unite to decorate festive trunks for trick-or-treaters to walk up to and collect treats. From the football booster board, the yearbook and first-responders clubs and sports such as field hockey, this event truly gathered an arrangement of community and school members.



Kaitlin Gelardi/Del.Aware

Seniors Cheyenne Decker, Savannah Van Orden and Sydney DeLeeuw collaborate to design a festive, vibrant and hay-filled trunk.



Kaitlin Gelardi/Del.Aware

Member of the Student Council, junior Vanessa Knapp, hands out a piece of candy to a trick-or-treater dressed as Waldo from the children's puzzle books "Where's Waldo?"



Kaitlin Gelardi/Del.Aware

Seniors and National Honor Society officers Philip Fitzpatrick, Kimberly Smyser, Emma Simmons, Jackson Hancock and Jocelyn Alveari re-create the iconic Scooby-Doo crew and mystery machine.



Kaitlin Gelardi/Del.Aware

Junior Brooke Palmeri offers candy to a trick-or-treater on behalf of the class of 2027.



Faith Bailey/Del.Aware

## Pumpkin decorating shows creativity

Student Council hosted the school's annual pumpkin painting competition, which had a movie theme for homerooms to create their own pumpkins to be judged on Oct. 31. The winning classroom was Mrs. Krystine Thompson's with the theme "Peanuts." The students had a display featuring characters such as Snoopy, Linus and Lucy.

Compiled by Faith Bailey

## Students set up donor drives to begin fundraising for Mini-THON

By JAIDA PALACIOS  
Arts & Literature Editor

Students will be able to set up their donor drive accounts within the next few weeks for the Four Diamonds Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises money to help fight childhood cancer.

Mini-THON is a student-led fundraising event inspired by Penn State's THON, aimed at raising money for children in need.

During lunch periods, members of the student council will assist in helping students set up accounts. Students who raise \$50 will be able to attend the Mini-THON event that is hosted in the spring.

"Our Mini-THON event last year

was very successful, and we raised almost \$7,000," Mini-THON event coordinator Keira LeMay said.

Students can access their accounts all year long and are encouraged to share their fundraising profiles with friends and family.

Fundraising will be competitive between all grades. The grade that raises the most money will win an extra point at the spring Spirit Games.

"I'm really looking forward to Mini-THON and how much it will grow. I'm so glad our school is now a part of such a great foundation," Mini-THON co-chair coordinator Rhyanne Rettinger said.



Jaida Palacios/Del.Aware

Students participate in lawn games during Mini-THON event.

# SOLVE THE MYSTERY



Can you crack the case and match the mystery desk to its rightful owner?

## FIRST SUSPECT

This social studies teacher has two children currently in high school.

Item #1



## SECOND SUSPECT

Item #2



This teacher's parents own Hill's Homestead.

Any suspicions?



## THIRD SUSPECT

This science teacher has anything that a student might need throughout the school day.

Any leads?

Item #3



Item #4



## FOURTH SUSPECT

This teacher has a full arm sleeve of tattoos.

Who is it?



Each clue is referencing a different teacher around the school who is a suspect in the case. Use the items provided and your detective skills to find out who did it. If you are confident in your convictions, come to C13 and submit your answers to the Sheriff (Mrs. Lordi).

# Community News

## Hidden heroes within our community

By LUCAS PETERSHEIM  
*Sports Co-Editor*

There are many different people who make our community a welcoming place. Often, they go unnoticed, but good attitudes and positive interactions with their customers can make a big difference in someone's day.



**Name:** Kasey Sutton  
**Store:** Walmart  
**Job title:** Asset protection and door hoster  
**Time employed:** 9 months

**Experience working at Walmart:**  
"I like the amount of people that I meet and the regularity of who comes in weekly."



**Name:** Jessica Gould  
**Store:** ShopRite  
**Job title:** Order, pickup and delivery (OPD employee)  
**Time employed:** 1 year

**Experience working at ShopRite:**  
"I get to see a lot of people and talk to a lot of people."



**Name:** Beverly Upton  
**Store:** Turkey Hill  
**Job title:** Sales Associate  
**Time employed:** 4 months

**Experience working at Turkey Hill:**  
"I get to meet a whole bunch of friendly, nice people and make them smile."

## Bashful Blooms offers floral arrangements to community

By AVA TROUP  
*Lifestyle Co-Editor*

Located in the middle of Milford, Bashful Blooms is a bright and fresh addition to the community.

From the moment you walk in, the flower shop welcomes you with seasonal flowers spread across the shop. Whether people want a few flowers or an entire bouquet, Bashful Blooms is the place to go.

"Working at Bashful Blooms has been a privilege; it is such a unique opportunity and experience. Whether it's arranging beautiful locally grown flowers, chatting about houseplant care or running workshops, Bashful does it best," employee Jackson Hancock said.

During the summer, the blooms are sourced from local farms and during the winter, the blooms come from greenhouses across the United States.

The employees have knowledge about the flowers they are selling and

work with customers to make sure that they get exactly what they envision. The shop is an essential part of the community and allows for people to show their feelings through beautiful arrangements that mean more than words can explain.

They also have an online website that gives customers the opportunity to pre-order their bouquets or have them delivered. The pre-order bouquets come at a reasonable price, starting at \$18.

Bashful Blooms does more than just bouquets; they also design arrangements for weddings, corsages and funeral services.

The shop is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, and they are closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Ava Troup/Del.Aware

**From the moment customers walk in, they are greeted with a colorful display of flowers.**

## Perkins remains a comforting stop in Matamoras

By CHLOE SIMONSON  
*Science & Technology Co-Editor*

Founded in 1958 as a small pancake house along Route 6 in Matamoras, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery remains a dependable stop for comfort food close to home. For many locals, it's the go-to place for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The atmosphere is relaxing and familiar. Warm lighting and tall booths create a cozy feel that's easy to settle into. The service is friendly and efficient, fitting the restaurant's "Kindness Served Daily" motto.

The Chicken Strips Dinner remains a reliable choice for a picky eater such as myself. It includes four to five crispy chicken strips with a dipping sauce and two sides of your choice. The chicken is well-cooked, crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. The fries were served hot and lightly salted. Unfortunately, the garlic mashed potatoes lacked balance between seasoning and texture.

The other entrees at the table proved satisfying though. The BBQ Pot Roast Burger includes stacked cheddar,

bacon, onion tangles and braised roast beef under a layer of barbecue sauce—a messy but hearty option. The Classic Pot Roast was filling and flavorful, served with mashed potatoes and corn. The Loaded Pot Roast Totchos quickly disappeared due to the small portion and was topped with roast beef, tater tots and melted cheese and loved by all at the table.

Overall, Perkins doesn't aim for fine dining or modern trends. Instead, it delivers consistent meals, a welcoming atmosphere and attentive service: comfort food done right.



Chloe Simonson/Del.Aware

**Perkins Restaurant & Bakery in Matamoras offers a variety of homestyle food at a reasonable price.**



**Best Group**

These "The Cat in the Hat"- themed pups dressed as Thing One, Two and Three.



This pooch dressed as a bee was buzzing with excitement to show off his tricks.



**Funniest**

Doug, the donut dog, was a crowd favorite at the parade.



# Milford Presents

# Annual Pooch Parade



The owner, dressed as the Wicked Witch of the West, brought her spooky cow and fierce tiger to the parade.



This sombrero-sporting pooch serenaded the judges with his musical howling.



**BEST IN SHOW**

This group dresses up as characters from Monsters, Inc. Their pooch is dressed as Sully.





# SENIORS **SLAY** HALLOWEEN



## BEST TRIO

"Rio"



## BEST GROUP

"Star Wars"

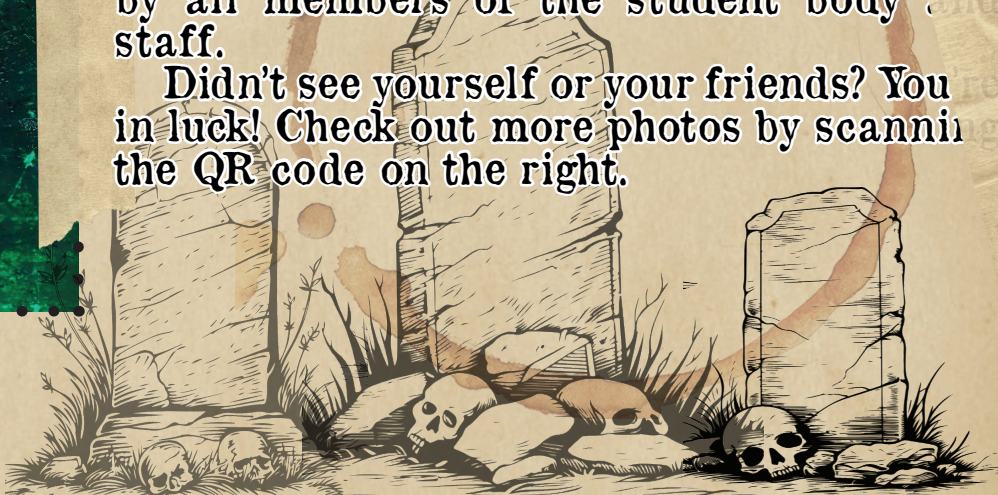


## BEST DUO

"Step Brothers"

Festive spirit filled the halls as seniors participated in the annual Senior Halloween and newly added parade on Oct. 31. Along with dressing up, the Del.Aware's costume contest took place, offering a chance for the most outstanding costumes to be voted on by all members of the student body and staff.

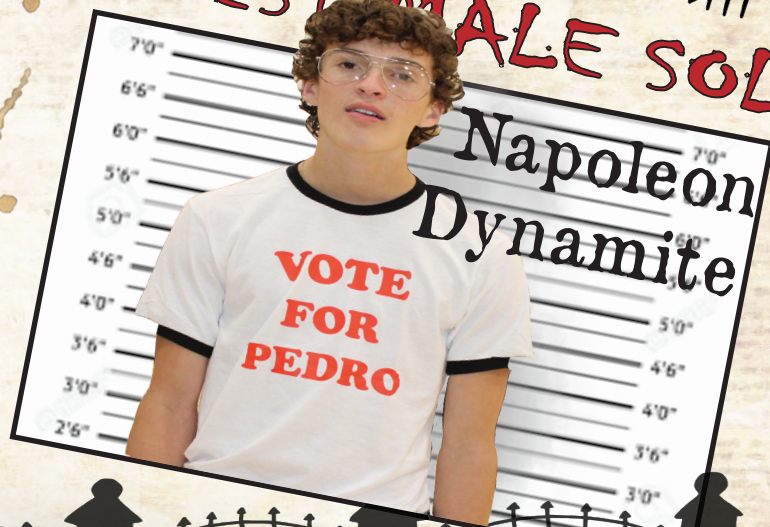
Didn't see yourself or your friends? You're in luck! Check out more photos by scanning the QR code on the right.



**MOST CREATIVE**

**CAUGHT**

**BEST MALE SOLO**



**MIME**

**ON THE RUN**



**"FINDING NEMO"**

**"HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON"**

**BEST FEMALE SOLO**



**FUNNIEST**



**BEST COUPLE**





# Lifestyle

## Meditation, yoga provide physical, mental, spiritual stability

By ELLA BECKER  
Entertainment Editor

What is mediation and yoga? Many people's minds would go straight to someone sitting with legs crossed with their palms facing out. Now this is true, but meditation and yoga are more than physical position. Meditation and yoga can not only benefit physical health, but have also proven to benefit mental health.

Mediation is the practice of an individual training their attention in order to achieve a clean and open mind.

The state of calmness that comes with meditation comes from focusing on taking deep breaths. Some may also repeat a statement or a mantra in order to focus.

While meditation improves mental stability, yoga focuses on both mental aspects and physical benefits.

Yoga is an Indian practice that aims to unite the spiritual, mental and physical being.

Yoga benefits flexibility, balance and posture. Yoga practices include various poses and exercising breathing techniques.

Yoga has proven to increase mental mood and clarity, much like meditation. Yoga has also shown improvements in sleeping and reduced body pain. Some popular yoga poses include the mountain pose, tree pose, triangle pose, cobra pose and downward-facing dog.

Junior Chloe Cruz enjoys doing yoga in the mornings, for it prepares her day in a calm, relaxing way.

"My body feels more open and loose, and it opens my mind to begin my day on a positive note," Cruz said.

So, if you or someone you know has had a long and stressful day, try a few minutes of yoga or meditation.

## It's not you, it's your phone

By LILY STOVEKEN  
Opinion Editor

It's time to put your phone down.

We've all heard the same lines over and over: cell phones are addictive. Social media destroys confidence. Yet even as we nod in agreement, the majority of us reach for our phones at the slightest feeling of boredom—because one more video couldn't hurt, could it?

How about another hour? Another two? Another five?

We reach for our phones constantly because we see them as a gateway. Beyond practicality, social media has made it so that phones are a way to see the world through a thousand pairs of eyes. But constantly viewing life as it's portrayed on social media—filtered, edited, possibly even AI generated—skews our perception. We begin to doubt ourselves, comparing our lives to what we see on screen. Young girls look at themselves in the mirror and wonder why their bodies don't match the physique of their altered idols on Instagram. Students watch content creators their own age buy bags upon bags of designer clothes and makeup while they struggle with the idea of affording college.

So many videos provide opportunities for comparison. You're left feeling worthless and unaccomplished. But instead of putting your phone down, you keep it in your hand because you're relying on the dopamine that hits each time you scroll—and because it's much easier to watch and wish for something than actually go about making a realistic change in your life. You become a shell of what you could be: wishing for an impossible ideal, simply observing through filtered eyes instead of living.

To put your phone down doesn't mean to give it up. It means keeping your distance, because realistically, that is what's needed to see the world clearly. Don't start and end your days with someone else's edited view of their life. Focus on your own, however happy or unhappy you may be with it. What changes do you really want to make for yourself? What do you truly want to accomplish? It's time to start living for yourself.



## Every sip tells a story

Your go-to drink might tell more about your personality than you previously thought.



### Matcha

- Earth lover
- Goes with the flow
- Thoughtful



### Refresher

- Enjoys the little things
- Outgoing
- Loves adventure

### Black Coffee

- Down to earth
- Straightforward
- Simplistic



### Chai

- Emotionally intelligent
- Outspoken
- Romanticizes life



# Lifestyle

## Y2K fashion makes its return

By JOEIMARIE COHEN

*Arts & Literature Co-Editor*

Over the past few years, early 2000s fashion has resurfaced and made its way back into everyday wardrobes, showing that something that was once old can become new again. This widespread style of clothing is defined by low-rise jeans, cheetah print, studded belts and tight-fitting baby tees. The revival of Y2K fashion has been driven by online platforms such as TikTok, Pinterest and Instagram, with Gen Z creators taking in the style and adding their own changes to it. Influencers have brought back looks inspired by 2000s icons like Britney Spears and Avril Lavigne, mixing older staples with newer, more current ones. Brands like Juicy Couture and Ed Hardy have also come back with clothes that were once considered outdated, making them popular again with younger audiences.

For many teens, this approach is a form of self expression. The broad diversity gives teens the

creative freedom to experiment with colors, layers and accessories to make their own creations. These pieces reflect personality and confidence, combining personal touches and encouraging experimentation with different looks.

Additionally, thrifting has become a significant part of the trend, allowing for students to find discarded pieces and make them into something new, making Y2K fashion more sustainable and environmentally



friendly. Styles that were once popular in malls and celebrity closets are now seen on social media and in school hallways.

Accessories such as butterfly clips and platform shoes have also made a comeback, adding simple but effective details that can emphasize an outfit. Challenges and videos on social media encourage teens to rework vintage articles with current styles, helping them fit into modern trends. Many find joy in recreating nostalgic looks from movies, TV shows, and music videos that defined the early 2000s era.

Ultimately, Y2K fashion is more than just a trend; it lets teens express their personality, try out different aesthetics and have fun with their everyday outfits.

## Businesses embrace eco-friendly trends

By VANESSA DISPOTO

*School News Co-Editor*

Today's rapidly changing world has caused businesses to realize that going green isn't just good for the planet—it's good for profits too. Companies are shifting towards eco-friendly practices to meet the demand for sustainability by consumers.

Whether it's a small local shop or a global corporation, many are reducing waste and utilizing environmentally friendly products.

One trend is the use of sustainable materials, such as recycled packaging and biodegradable alternatives to plastic. Many grocery stores have turned to paper or reusable

bags, and restaurants may give out paper straws instead of plastic straws. This practice reduces the company's carbon footprint and strengthens brand loyalty. Studies from Forbes have shown that customers are more likely to purchase from brands that reflect their beliefs.

Not only is sustainability great for the planet, but it also drives innovation as well. This has led to creative designs and cleaner production methods. Green projects are also being funded by governments and investors; they are rewarding these efforts with incentives.

By following eco-friendly trends, businesses are caring for the planet and satisfying their consumers' wants, all while boosting profit and earning financial success. In today's world, sustainability is no longer optional—it's essential.



*Contributed photo*

**Better World, a local coffee shop in Milford, follows this eco-friendly trend.**

## Is it really quality over quantity?

By LILIAN SEIBERT

*Lifestyle Editor*

Do big group hangouts get draining? Do they become overbearing and long? Simply send your friend a "thinking of you text," comment on their post or go on a lunch date. Though these small acts may seem pointless, these types of communication are what keep friendships stable.

Micro socializing is the new trend that refers to short, small and spontaneous interactions with others. This could include showing small acts of kindness, brief exchanges or even holding the door open. This became popular during COVID-19, when people relied on short, digital interactions. It proves

that friendship isn't just about spending hours with each other, but more about showing up consistently.

Why is micro-socializing beneficial, you might ask? With many people juggling their schoolwork, sports and jobs, students don't have time to hang out for hours as it becomes draining both physically and mentally. Lastly, it supports emotional balance. Studies show that most teens struggle with social burnout. Micro-socializing helps them stay connected to friends and family without the constant stress of availability.

Micro-socializing shows that even the smallest acts have meaning, as well as providing social relief.

# Arts & Literature

## Spotlight Musician:

### Riley Hunt

BY KAITLIN GELARDI  
School News Editor

After numerous performances since fourth grade, senior Riley Hunt continues to display her evident talent with the trombone and her dedication to perfecting the instrument.

Riley actively demonstrates her talent through her involvement in the school's concert band, jazz band, pit band and chorus.

She also participated in the Marywood Wind Band Celebration, the SteelStacks Jazz Festival, the Tri-County Band and the Tri-State Chorale.

"This year I plan to participate in many different festivals, competitions and playing opportunities," Riley



said.

Since having Mr. Richard Bullock as a band director, Riley has flourished into a more confident trombonist through his encouragement.

After high school, Riley plans to continue to play trombone in college and become a member of her school's jazz and concert bands.

For Riley, the most rewarding aspect of playing the trombone is yielding success after countless hours of rehearsing.

"I love the feeling of my hard work paying off and being able to demonstrate how much work and dedication I've put into what I care about," Riley said.

## Spotlight Writer:

### Dominick Agron

BY ASHANTIA DICETTE  
Opinion Co-Editor

Senior Dominick Agron doesn't just mindlessly write—he puts his heart into it. He finds writing to be his outlet for remembrance and imagination. And whether he's arguing a point or building upon the fantasy world that he's been creating since the third grade, writing is simply how he makes sense of everything.

"I like writing my own takes on philosophical points or debating those with other people," Dominick said. "But on the other hand, I also like writing stories—and this one fantasy world I've been working on for a very long time."

Dominick said that his biggest forms of inspiration stems from the world around him.

"Literally anything [can]," he said. "Sometimes I hear [something that's so stupid] I have to write something to

address it."

His writing process is simple: start, see what happens and fix it later.

"I'm not the kind of person who outlines everything," he said. "I just go, see what I get and change stuff."

Dominick has taken on many heavy writing classes, including AP Seminar and a Cornell University summer course in argumentation and debate.

Both of these courses helped him craft stronger arguments and use less "superfluous words."

"I can be really boring when I try to be," he said. According to Dominick, writing is more than grades, essays and assignments—it's a way to think, debate and create.

"And to lay out a story for somebody else to see," he said.

*"I like writing my own takes on philosophical points or debating those with other people."*

**- Dominick Agron**

## Spotlight Artist: Vidhi Patel

BY JAIDA PALACIOS  
Arts & Literature Editor

For senior Vidhi Patel, photography is an outlet to preserve the world around her and capture the real-life moments in just one picture.

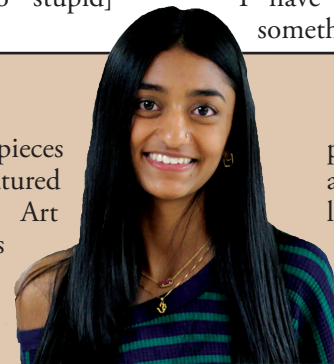
Vidhi began her art journey in eighth grade when she was assigned a project to create a person out of geometric shapes. Ever since then, she has been inspired to take multiple courses each year including General Art, Digital Photography, Ceramics 1 and 2, and AP Studio Art.

Her interest in photography began unexpectedly when she was assigned a project in the Yearbook Club. While taking photos for the club, she realized that she enjoyed taking nature photos. She loves to take photographs of nature, landscapes and florals.

One of her proudest moments occurred last year when a still-life photograph, that included her

favorite floral and nature pieces that she created was featured in the Congressional Art Contest and added to DV's permanent art collection. The recognition that she received has encouraged her to continue pursuing photography.

Outside of the classroom, she is a State Social Media Ambassador for FBLA. Her job is to capture event



photographs. Through capturing images, she has been able to connect with members by asking if they would like a picture taken. The simple gesture allows her to build her communication and networking skills, which are the purposes of FBLA.

Her biggest inspiration to continue her pursuit in capturing her still-life photographs is her dad. He has taught her to "live in the moment and to enjoy the beauty in what's in front of you, not worrying about the past," which is advice that is instilled in her to this day.

"Photography allows me to freeze time and capture moments that are special to me and help me accomplish my goals that I have in creating art," Vidhi said.

# Arts & Literature

## MARCHING BAND SENIOR NIGHT



**Grace Stevens**  
Drum Major

**Phoenix Calderoni**  
Color Guard



**Emily Warfsman**  
Color Guard



**Cadence Blood**  
Color Guard



**Kaitlin Gelardi**  
Color Guard



**Izzy Colavito**  
Color Guard

Compiled by Ava Troup

## Mrs. Cohen recommends 'The Women'

BY JOEIMARIE COHEN  
*Arts & Literature Co-Editor*

Many students tend to perceive their teachers as being limited to one activity, not seeing them as people who live and engage in anything beyond school. Mrs. Marielle Cohen, an American history teacher of multiple class levels, chose "The Women" by Kristin Hannah as her single most favored book recommendation for students. With experience in teaching AP U.S. History, Honors American Studies, and American Studies, she finds historical fiction powerful in reviving the events of the past.

Set during the Vietnam War, the novel follows a young nurse named Frankie and focuses on the roles of the many women who



served in medical units. Mrs. Cohen values the way the novel highlights the strength and courage of female nurses who worked in dangerous conditions while caring for wounded soldiers.

The book explores the emotional effects of war, including the struggles many faced with PTSD and long-term trauma. She notes that the story does not shy away from showing how nurses and veterans were treated when they returned home, as many were met with scrutiny rather than support.

For Mrs. Cohen, the most meaningful part of the novel is how it connects readers to the human side of history. She believes it shows that the past is not only made of battles and major events, but also real people who lived and suffered through them.

## Art students come together to paint the plow

BY ELLA BECKER  
*Entertainment Editor*

Paint the Plow is a PennDOT program meant to promote driving safely during winter.

Art students in schools across the state come together to paint a snow plow, all having a common theme. This year's theme is "Don't race. Allow some Space." This theme promotes slow driving in winter conditions in order to maintain a safe roadway for young drivers.

Artists are encouraged to personalize their plow with school spirit. Photos of the school's painted plow will be displayed on a PennDOT online platform.

This year, freshman Isabella Johnson, sophomore Aurora Dingman

and senior Julianna Carini volunteered to paint DV's plow. The students collaborated to brainstorm ideas, make a rough sketch of what they will paint on the plow blade and then finally start painting. Once it was time to paint, the group met once a week.

Occasionally, the group of artists had extra students come to help them paint.



Contributed Photo

**Juniors Ditika Sharma and Inessa Martin collaborate to paint DV's plow for PennDOT's program.**

Art educator Ms. Maria Tusinean was in charge of organizing the students and is proud of how the students came together.

"It is very rewarding to see how students collaborate and

learn to be flexible, exchange ideas and have a unified creative vision in the end," Ms. Tusinean said.

# Entertainment

## How your music preferences change with the seasons

By ALYSSA ZIMMER  
*Community News Editor*

The type of music people listen to changes depending on the season, which means that people want to listen to music that fits their mood.

In the fall and winter months, there is less sun, it is much colder and the clocks “fall back” due to daylight saving time. The time change influences people’s emotions because it gets darker sooner.

During the colder months, people tend to listen to mellow, more somber music. Some popular artists who are listened to more frequently in fall and winter are The Weeknd, Adele, and Mariah Carey.

In the summer and spring months, there is more sunlight, so people want

to spend more time outside and seem happier. The springtime represents a fresh start and we “spring forward” getting an extra hour of sunlight due to daylight saving time.

During the warmer months, people are excited about the warm weather because there are more outdoor activities. People tend to listen to rap, hip-hop, pop or dance music because this type of music is more upbeat and matches the mood of the season.

Some popular artists who many people listen to in spring and summer are Sabrina Carpenter, Taylor Swift, Drake and Beyoncé.

No matter the season, the music teens choose becomes the soundtrack to their changing moods.



**Fun songs to make it through the year!**

Compiled by Lilian Seibert



## ‘Wicked: For Good’ hits theaters in two weeks

*Will it be worth the wait?*

By LILIAN SEIBERT  
*Lifestyle Editor*

After a full year of anticipation, director Jon M. Chu is returning with another movie, the sequel to “Wicked.” On Nov. 21, the wait will finally be over, as the movie will be released in theaters nationwide.

After “Wicked” was a huge hit following its release, fans have been anxiously waiting for the sequel, “Wicked: For Good.” With a big-name cast, the upcoming movie is intended to draw a large amount of fans to the theaters.

With a blend of genres including musical, romance and fantasy, “Wicked: For Good” is meant for a variety of audiences. The plot picks up where “Wicked” left off, introducing possible new characters, adventures and surprises. The two main characters Elphaba and Glinda lead after building their friendship at their school and ending the movie with a complicated twist. “Wicked: For Good” will explore what happened beyond our knowledge.

The film’s source material traces back to many works including the dazzling 2003 Broadway musical “Wicked,” the 1995 novel “Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West” and the book and movie adaptation of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.” Being such a complicated and intricate story, it wouldn’t be done without their wonderful team.

Filmmakers include the director, Jon M. Chu, screenwriters Winnie Holzman and Dana Fox, composer Stephen Schwartz and producers Marc Platt and David Stone.

The film is so diverse with their unique cast and characters, as they build the entire movie brick by brick. Main character Elphaba Thropp, a misunderstood young woman who is

born with green skin, is starred by actress and vocalist, Cynthia Erivo. Following the large talent is the other main character Glinda Upland, a popular and bubbly young woman played by Ariana Grande, another popular singer. “Wicked: For Good” is expected to have returning favorites and new big names to come.

The tone of the film is a beautiful blend of light and dark, with emphasis on their complicated friendship. The trailer generated a buzz around potential spoilers and increased stakes of the movie.

Meant for all members of the audience, “Wicked: For Good” has a PG rating and a runtime of two hours and 18 minutes.

Anticipating fans will soon find out if it was worth the wait or better left alone when it hits theaters in exactly two weeks.



# Entertainment

## 'Severance': a calculated masterclass in originality

BY ASHANTIA DICETTE  
*Opinion Co-Editor*

Ever given thought to the possibility of leaving all your memories behind when you reach your office building? "Severance," an Apple TV+ sci-fi thriller and psychological drama created by Dan Erickson, dives into exactly that, creating a world where office workers can undergo a procedure called severance that separates their work selves and their personal selves from each other. This is a series that questions the cost of a balanced life.

"Severance" follows Mark Scout, played by Adam Scott, an emotionally unstable widower who works at Lumon Industries. Throughout the series, he slowly begins to suspect that there is something sinister hiding beneath the company's seemingly perfect facade. While it does originally start off as a mystery, the show later transitions into a highly emotionally provocative rollercoaster.

But "Severance" is not just some simple run-of-the-mill workplace horror story. It's a warning about

conformity and control. It challenges us all to take off our rose-tinted glasses and to question the systems that control us. Erickson's stellar writing makes this idea so blaring that it leaves the audience sitting with curiosity and discomfort long after the episode is over.

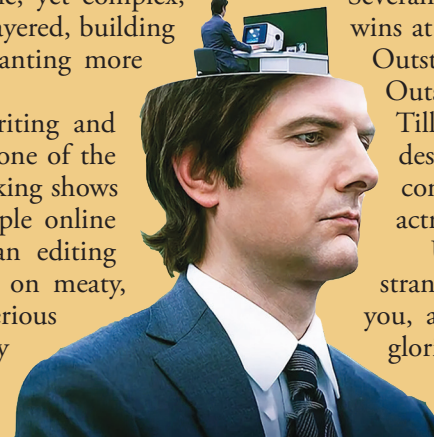
In an age of burnout, internal struggles and identity crises, this show comes off as both wildly absurd and disturbingly real. It's new and refreshing—its stellar cast delivers such subtle, yet complex, performances that are delicately layered, building rising tensions that leave you wanting more each and every episode.

Aside from its deliberate writing and pacing, "Severance" seems to be one of the most original and thought-provoking shows of late. There is a gaggle of people online who believe that the show is an editing masterpiece and is a masterclass on meaty, calculated writing. It has mysterious lighting, a score with incredibly jarring music and an eerie mood that lingers on with each passing

episode. Every frame is done with an intention in mind to keep the watchers constantly on their toes, hungrily looking for hints and clues on just what will happen next.

Not only is "Severance" great, but it also seems to be well-received. It has gotten plenty of recognition for its brilliance. It was the most nominated show in the 2025 Emmy Awards with 27 nominations. Severance has won 10 Emmys in total, eight wins at the 2025 Primetime Emmy Awards: Outstanding Lead Actress for Britt Lower, Outstanding Supporting Actor for Tramell Tillman and other awards for production design, title design, sound mixing, music composition, cinematography and guest actress for Merritt Wever.

Ultimately, "Severance" is deliciously strange and wonderfully defiant. It tricks you, angers you and surprises you. In its glorious unsettling whole, "Severance" isn't just weird—it's jazz.



## 'Chad Powers' revitalized for a series on Hulu

BY LUCAS PETERSHEIM  
*Sports Co-Editor*

"Chad Powers" started as a ESPN skit but since August of this year it was announced that he will be getting his own show on Hulu.

The show is inspired by ESPN's viral prank where two-time Super Bowl champion Eli Manning disguised himself with makeup and a wig and walked-on for Penn State's football team. He eventually revealed himself, and the popularity of the skit led to it getting its own TV adaptation.

The show has been in the works for about two years, and season one will only contain six episodes that run about 30 minutes each.

The show follows Glen Powell's character Russ Holiday, a disgraced college football quarterback looking for a chance to redeem himself. He disguises himself and tries out for a mediocre college team in Georgia. He needs to mask his identity,

balance a social life and make his way back to the top of the football world. It contains a perfect amount of humor and seriousness that drives the plot and makes the show enjoyable for any type of audience.

The fun and talented cast is led by Powell, Perry Matfield and Steve Zahn.

IMDb's viewer reviews have been around an 8/10, while professional critics are not as sold on the show questioning its stability to be a full series. The show perfectly captures the problems that Powers faces while trying to hide his identity, his personal conflicts and his past guilt.

The show portrays Holiday in a way that is more than football, he struggles with his own mental and emotional problems which makes him a relatable character to the viewers.

## Daniel Caesar's 'Son of Spergy' lives up to hype

BY MIKE IUZZOLINO  
*Sports Editor*

Daniel Caesar returned on Oct. 24 with "Son of Spergy," his fourth studio album, which features 12 unique tracks.

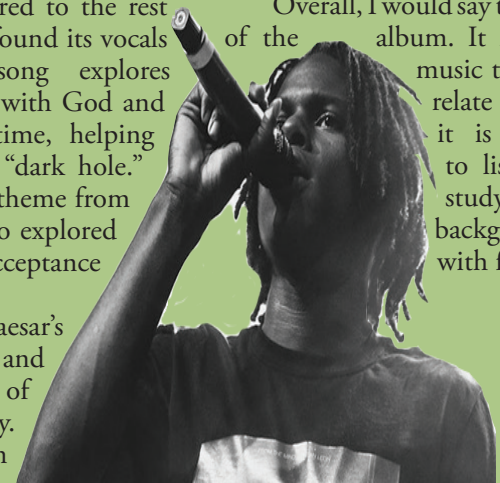
My personal favorite song was the fourth track, "Baby Blue." It is relatively fast compared to the rest of the album, and I found its vocals enchanting. The song explores Caesar's relationship with God and how it grew over time, helping him come out of a "dark hole." This was a common theme from the album, but it also explored themes such as self-acceptance and introspection.

Like the rest of Caesar's music, it is slow and calming, with themes of love and vulnerability. However this album

includes more of a soul feel, an aspect of his music that had faded in recent albums, combined with his usual R&B sound.

The album itself was actually named after his father, Norwill Simmonds, who went by the nickname Spergy. His father was spiritual, so the album pays homage to his faith.

Overall, I would say that I was a fan of the album. It is comforting music that many can relate to. I believe it is great music to listen to while studying or just as background music with friends.



# Science & Technology

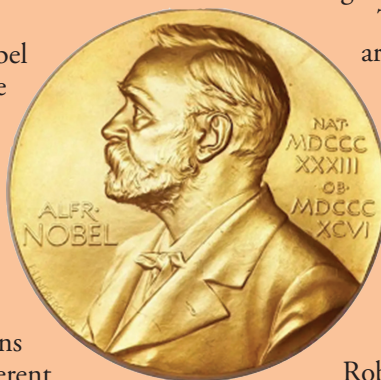
## Nobel Prize laureates continue to benefit society

By VANESSA DISPOTO  
*School News Co-Editor*

A total of 11 people were honored and awarded for their different kinds of success within the six different fields eligible for Nobel Prizes.

The Nobel Prize, founded by Alfred Nobel in the late 1800s, was established to recognize those who had extraordinary achievements in six different fields: physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. Nobel didn't just invent the Nobel Prize; he also invented dynamite in 1867. The first Nobel Prize was awarded in 1901, five years after the death of Nobel.

Each year, the nomination process begins during the month of September. The six different fields have slightly different criteria when it comes to nominations, yet self-nominations are not allowed in any field.



A single prize winner receives 11 million Swedish kronor (SEK), which translates to about one million U.S. dollars. If multiple people are awarded the prize in the same field, they must share the money equally among themselves.

This year's physics laureates are John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis. According to the Nobel Prize website, they were given this award "for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit."

Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi are this year's chemistry laureates. The website recognizes them "for the development of metal-organic frameworks."

The medicine laureates this year include Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi. They were awarded "for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance," according to the website.

The literature laureate this year is László Krasznahorkai. He was given the award "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art," as per the website.

Lastly, this year's peace laureate is Maria Corina Machado. The website notes that she was acknowledged "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy."

Each year, the Nobel Prize continues to honor the outstanding achievements that will continue to benefit humanity and inspire progress.

## OpenAI's newest tool leaves users guessing

By MIKE IUZZOLINO  
*Sports Editor*

OpenAI unveiled its new AI video model, Sora 2, on Sept. 30, with capabilities to produce hyper-realistic videos from a simple prompt written by the user.

These videos are so realistic that it is often difficult for viewers to even recognize that it is an artificially-produced video. The topics of the video can range from reinvented videos of Bob Ross to a video of a hermit crab with a lightbulb shell.

Sora 2 by OpenAI is an app currently available for download on iOS, but it is also available for use on a web browser.

It can be a fun, lighthearted tool used to create any video imaginable, such as a video of Adam Sandler petting a leopard or Jimmy Kimmel riding a

dinosaur. Unfortunately, many have used these AI capabilities to spread misinformation according to The New York Times.

Fortunately, Sora's watermark helps alert viewers that the content they are viewing is AI generated, but if users don't recognize the watermark they may still believe the content is real.

Users can upload their own photos and videos and instruct the AI model to alter it however they please, and the videos take only about a minute to generate, after which they then can be downloaded and shared.

If the AI model detects a face being uploaded they require a video of the person saying a given three numbers as a form of consent.

## What's the deal with air fryers?

*The science behind oil-free frying: is it really worth the hype?*

By REILLY NEWTON  
*Science & Technology Editor*

There really is something special about fried food. The greasiness and that satisfyingly signature crunch are only some of the distinctive qualities that give it such wide appeal. But unfortunately for us, it comes at a price.

The high amounts of sodium, calories and unhealthy fats can have negative effects on the human body: increase in heart diseases and Type 2 diabetes, to name a few. So while it is a borderline ethereal experience to indulge in those extra-crispy fries or cheesy mozzarella sticks, we should refrain from doing it as often as possible.

Unless you have an air fryer.

Air fryers are one of the closest things to magic this world has probably ever seen, and it's not talked about enough.

An air fryer can basically be classified as a cheat code or loop hole to enjoying "fried foods", without the added guilt of course.

Traditional frying essentially dehydrates food. The hot oil seeps into it, gradually cooking it, while the moisture at the surface reaches its boiling point and evaporates. This causes the rapid bubbling and fizzing that you see when you fry food and results in that crackly texture.



Air fryers utilize rapid air technology—a process that uses fans to circulate pre-heated air around the food, resulting in that classic crispy outside we all know and love with little to no oil involved.

Along with "frying" the food, most air fryers have multiple settings that can produce different types of finishes such as baking, roasting, broiling, reheating, etc.

Because of the variety of functions air fryers provide, they have quickly become a staple in households around the world.

# Science & Technology

## What if life's just running on code?

By CHLOE SIMONSON

*Science & Technology Co-Editor*

What if everything, meaning school, Dunkin' runs, even awkward hallway encounters, is all part of one big video game? That's the basic idea behind the Simulation Theory, and it's been around a lot longer than Reddit suggests.

The concept actually dates back to ancient Greece. Philosopher Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" described people mistaking shadows for reality, basically suggesting we might not see the real world at all. Fast forward to the 1600s, and René Descartes wondered if an "evil demon" could be tricking our senses into believing a false reality.

Then in 2003, philosopher Nick Bostrom gave the idea a digital twist. He proposed that if technology keeps advancing, future civilizations could run simulations of their ancestors, suggesting

that we might be living in one right now.

Supporters point to physics and technology as clues. Subatomic particles act differently when observed, almost like the universe "renders" itself in real time.

Others note the mathematical precision of the universe, calling it a kind of cosmic code. And online, "evidence" pops up constantly. For example, those 2018 videos of a group of birds frozen mid-air for several



seconds, or people sharing identical dreams across the globe and even recently with those frozen planes.

To believers, those are system glitches. To everyone else, they're optical illusions and coincidences.

Skeptics argue there's no actual proof. No hidden code in atoms. No cosmic error messages. Simulating a universe, they say, would take impossible computing power, but AI does it all the time.

So, are we living in a simulation? Probably not. But the theory sticks because it's fun to think about. The kind of "what if" that keeps science, philosophy and late-night conversations alive. Whether or not we're real, it definitely makes you pause and wonder: who's holding the controller?

## Self-checkout grocery carts improve in-store efficiency

By ELLA BECKER

*Entertainment Editor*

Self-checkout opened up many doors for retail companies, however technology has only gotten more advanced. AI has brought retail companies into the 21st century with the new invention of self-checkout carts.

The company Caper has developed an AI shopping cart. Caper introduces a four-step process to use their carts. Step one is simply just grabbing a cart, with no mobile app needed. Step two is to place items or weigh in your cart in order to add them to your basket. Step three is to pay and go. Part of the self checkout process is by paying for your items through the cart. Step four is saving your digital receipt.

These new shopping carts utilize a weigh-in and recognition system in order

for the technology to acknowledge what is being put in the cart. This feature of the cart scans and documents what shoppers are buying also helps the store owners or companies to see what supplies they may need more of, or what they should cut back on.

A major pro of these new innovative carts is the amount of time they save. They also reduce long lines and create a less-crowded environment.

A goal of these new carts, is that it takes less staff help. At a normal self checkout, there is always an employee readily at your assistance because of how frequently self checkout requires authorized help. The shopping cart developers that implementing these carts will require less manpower and make the shopping experience more effective.



## Night vision contacts grant users 'super vision'

By KEIRA LEMAY

*Community News Co-Editor*

Scientists have developed new contact lenses that allow users to see in the dark. The lenses use nanoparticle technology to absorb low frequency light and convert it into the visible light spectrum. This allows users to experience wavelengths otherwise invisible to the naked eye, a technology scientists referred to as "super vision".

Traditional night vision goggles amplify visible light by converting photons into electrons. This creates an image viewable to the wearer. These goggles require an energy source that can make them very bulky.

However, the new contact lenses do not require an energy source, which makes them user-friendly and allows them to be the same size as a typical contact lens.

Thus far, the technology has been successful. Researchers in China found that injecting the nanoparticles into the retina of mice

resulted in infrared vision. After designing a less invasive option by embedding the technology into a flexible contact lens, they found similar results. Mice with the contact lenses favored boxes with infrared light over boxes with no light.

Scientists also found that with the contact lenses on, humans are able to see flickering infrared light.

The company also designed a wearable glasses version of the technology, which allows subjects to see in finer detail.

This technology may also have applications for colorblind people. By changing the nanoparticles to a modified version, this change may allow them to see invisible color.

Currently, this technology is not readily available, and the lenses need more work before they will be available to the public. The lenses only pick up very bright infrared light from LED sources, so they will have to be strengthened in order to pick up less intense light.

# DEL AWARE ATHLETES Sign OFF

## Girls Soccer



Reilly Newton



Sasha Sheehan



Krystina Orby

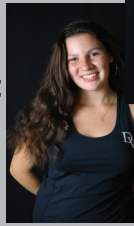
## Field Hockey



Ella Smith

## Girls Tennis

Kat Poletayeva



Julianna Hopper



Ruby Bailor



Kelsey Cassidy

## Boys Soccer



Keegan Samson



Reagan Decker



Lance Saint Jean



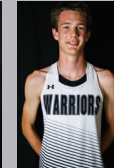
Adonis Jimenes Ventura

## Cross Country

Philip Fitzpatrick



Connor Giblin



Johnny Llewellyn



Gideon Yost



Ava Troup



Elizabeth Bailey



Jocelyn Alveari



Addison Yadanza



Frani Russo



Emma Simmons



Lily Stoveken



Kimberly Smyser

## Girls Volleyball

Sophia Collman



Emiley Hughes



Samantha Prisco



Brianna Waldron



Kate Prior



As the fall sports season comes to an end, seniors were recognized for their hard work and dedication. The sports' booster clubs and coaches organize these senior nights. Seniors' plans for after high school, their involvement and how long they have been playing were announced.

Compiled by Mike Iuzzolino

## Golf

Cal Stewart Sam Edsall



Brady Blaut

Tim Jason



Hayden Elderkin

Chase Peerboom

CJ Koger Liam Onofry

## Football



Ayden Conklin

Aiden Boo

Colin McGarvey

Justin Estevez

Chris Devaney

Reagan Decker

Josh Rhein

Teegan Handy

Mike Iuzzolino

Noah Delo

Riley Smith

Chris Renna

Keith Doyle

Shaun Cannalley

Donald Outer

# Fall Wrap-ups

## Cross Country

By JAIDA PALACIOS  
Arts & Literature Editor

The boys and girls cross country teams officially ended their seasons at Districts with the boys finishing seventh and the girls finishing fourth. Sophomore Grace Holderith finished second overall at Districts and finished 24th at States which was held in Hershey on Nov. 1.

The girls team was eight points shy of third place, ending their season with a 19-4 record. Seniors Lily Stoveken placed 22nd, Ava Troup 23rd, Addison Yadanza 24th, Elizabeth Bailey 29th and Kimberly Smyser placed 30th.

Sophomore Grace Holderith



Sophomores Grace Holderith and Mya Viera placed second and 31st, respectively.

Five runners from the boys team finished the course in less than 20 minutes, ending their season with a record of 14-9.

Senior Gideon Yost led the boys, finishing 16th with a time of 18:12. Following Yost, the other seniors included Johnny Llewellyn 25th, Connor Giblin 32nd and Phil Fitzpatrick in 36th. Sophomores Aiden Acocella and Chris Tanzini placed 48th and 63rd, respectively.

"I am proud of the fact that we didn't have any runners miss a race due to injury the whole season," head coach Keith Fitzpatrick said.

## Girls Soccer

By JOSIE LORDI  
Sports Co-Editor

The girls soccer team made it to the first round of districts but lost in a penalty kick shoot out to Pittston Area 0-1. The team ended its regular season with a record of 5-11.

The Warriors dominated the game and had many opportunities for shots on goal, but couldn't put the ball in the net. Due to the lack of scoring from DV, the game ended up in a penalty kick shoot out. Pittston made all five

of their shots and DV only made four. Senior Krystina Orby led the team this season with six goals and was also selected as a Lackawanna League second team All-Star at the forward position. Junior Hailey Westridge broke the 100-save mark in her first year as starting varsity goalkeeper.

Head coach Kevin Quinn gives this year's seniors Sasha Sheehan, Reilly Newton and Orby praise for their performance during the season.

"All three seniors have made a huge impact on the underclassmen, and they will be greatly missed," head coach Kevin Quinn said.

Junior Rhyane Rettinger



## Boys Soccer

By LUCAS PETERSHEIM  
Sports Co-Editor

The boys soccer team fell to the Wilkes-Barre Wolfpack 3-1 in the district semi-finals on Oct. 25. The boys ended their season 8-8-3, losing three out of their last five games.

Head coach Aaron Stark sees this as a failure to learn and grow from in the future. "Unfortunately, toward the end of the season, we skidded a little bit and didn't play our best brand of soccer," coach Stark said.

The team is graduating just four seniors that will leave large holes to fill within the team, including Reagan Decker, a four-year starter on the defense.

Junior Jason Nagy



Coach Stark is looking toward junior midfielders Jason Nagy and Cameron Stark, as well

as junior goalkeeper Shane Kirk to step up into leadership roles for next season and hopefully get back to a District 2 championship.

"We have got to work on our physical strength, staying healthy and our technical skill, and I think we're going to be able to compete for a championship in the next couple years," coach Stark said.

Though the season didn't end in a district championship, a bright future is still ahead of this youthful team.

## Field Hockey

By KIMBERLY SMYSER  
Managing Editor

The field hockey team lost the district quarterfinal game 2-1 to Dallas High School on Oct. 20, making their overall record 2-17.

Head coach Marielle Cohen emphasized how this was one of the team's best games because of the ambition seen on the field.

According to coach Cohen, junior captain Savannah Liz played an aggressive game. Senior captain Ella Smith also stepped up in this game and throughout the season as the lone senior on the team. As well as,

sophomore goalie Caitlin Luciano who blocked several shots.

The team improved their game play on defensive and offensive corners throughout the season.

"We have been strong on corners and have not given up many goals in corner format," coach Cohen said.

The team excelled at lifting each other up and noticing their teammates' accomplishments and hard work.

Next season, they plan to focus on stick skill and game knowledge by watching collegiate and international games.

"I'm excited for next year's team, but it is the work in the off season that makes the upcoming season good," coach Cohen said.

Junior Savannah Liz



# Sports

## Girls Tennis

BY ALYSSA ZIMMER  
Community News Editor

The girls tennis team finished its season 6-8, placed sixth in the district and advanced to team quarterfinals.

Juniors Emma Strickler and Josie Lordi represented DV in singles Districts. Strickler received a bye in the first round and automatically advanced to the second round when she beat Wallenpaupack. She ended up losing to Abington

Heights in the quarterfinals. Lordi won her first round against Pittston but lost in her second round against Soba from Abington.

On Oct. 16, senior Ruby Bailor, sophomore Avarie Balogh, Strickler and Lordi competed in doubles Districts.

Bailor and Balogh defeated Wyoming Valley West in their first round but lost to the No. 2 Abington team in the second round.

Strickler and Lordi received a bye for the first round, defeated Scranton in the second round and lost to Abington's No. 1 team in quarterfinals.



Sophomore Avarie Balogh

## Golf

BY MIKE IUZZOLINO  
Sports Editor

The golf team finished its regular season with a record of 7-5 and earned a spot in the Lackawanna League championship for the first time under head coach Jim Salus.

In the league championship at Elk View Country Club, they fell short losing to Abington Heights 315-357.

Senior CJ Koger and sophomore Hunter Stead made individual districts but fell just short of the cut for States.

Coach Salus highlighted Stead in

specific and is hopeful for him to make it to States in the coming years.

This season also marked assistant coach Chris Neidig's last season with the team.

*"Just to have the experience of an all-day playoff was awesome. The kids were great, and it's been an amazing year."*

- Head coach Jim Salus

"He was a great asset to the team and to all the players he coached over the

years," coach Salus said. "I am personally going to miss having him as my assistant."

## Volleyball Wrap-Up

BY REILLY NEWTON  
Science & Technology Editor

The girls volleyball team closed its season with a tough loss in three straight sets against Emmaus High School in the first round of state playoffs on Nov. 4. The scores were 25-22, 25-16 and 25-13.

The Warriors had an energetic and close first set, but their morale slowly depleted as the game went on.

"I think we got discouraged," head coach Karley May said. "We just didn't carry that momentum on."



Senior Kate Prior

Despite an upsetting end, the Warriors had an exceptional season all-in-all. The team secured their eighth district title in a row and had a record of 15-5. They also had three players break past school records: sophomore Makayley Hughes with 769 assists,

senior Brianna Waldron with 43 blocks and senior Kate Prior with 381 digs.

The team's seniors included Sophia Collman, Emiley Hughes, Samantha Prisco, Prior and Waldron, while leading the team were captains Collman, Hughes, Prior and Waldron.

With five seniors leaving, there are big shoes to fill, but coach May is confident in her team's ability to keep that drive going into next season.

"Their work ethic was huge, I'm so proud of them," Coach May said. "I've been with these seniors since eighth grade...it's the end of an era, truly."

## Warriors edge Patriots in critical victory

BY EMMA SIMMONS  
Editor-in-Chief

The Warriors defeated Pittston in the district semifinal 7-6 on Oct. 31, officially shifting them to a winning record of 6-5.

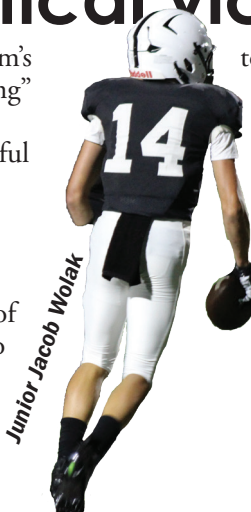
Both senior fullback Justin Estevez and senior running back Mike Iuzzolino were highlighted as essential to the game. Estevez led the defense with 15 tackles and a sack, and Iuzzolino both scored the touchdown for the Warriors and blocked Pittston's extra point attempt, allowing the Warriors to clinch the win. Head coach

Keith Olsommer also credited the team's entire defensive line for an "outstanding" game.

Looking back on the successful season, coach Olsommer will be depending on the current juniors to follow in the footsteps of this year's seniors.

"They all have a good sense of leadership, so we are looking to them to take the program forward next year," coach Olsommer said.

The Warriors will travel to Abington Heights High School



Junior Jacob Wolak

tonight at 7 p.m. in a district title rematch, the same opponent and round that ended the season for the Warriors last year.

"We are going to have our hands full, but we are excited for it," coach Olsommer said. "They may be 9-2, but Delaware Valley is one of those two [losses]."



Scan this QR code to view the fall sports senior night photo gallery on the Del.Aware's online website.

## Spotlight Athlete



Justin Estevez, SENIOR

"He loves the sport and has an unmatched work ethic."  
- Head coach Keith Olsommer